

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. Joseph L. Fisher. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 3701, introduced by Representative FRANK WOLF and Representative JIM MORAN, which designates the United States Post Office facility located at 3118 Washington Boulevard in Arlington, Virginia, to be known as the "Joseph L. Fisher Post Office Building." Mr. Fisher served a distinguished career in both the U.S. Armed Forces and as the first Representative from Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, January 11, 1914, the late Congressman Joseph Fisher was first elected as the representative of the 10th Congressional District of Virginia in 1974 as a Democrat and began his service in the Ninety-fourth Congress. He held the seat of Congressman FRANK WOLF. He served three terms and was the second Member of Congress to represent the 10th Congressional District. He served the 10th district through a period of tremendous growth and change for Northern Virginia. During his six years in Congress he served as a member of the House Ways and Means and Budget committees and earned a reputation for his diligent work on taxation, energy and budget policy. He also served as chair of seven task forces all on national policy issues.

When he first came to Northern Virginia he accepted a position as an economist at the U.S. Department of State before serving his country in World War II in the Pacific theater from 1943 to 1946. After he returned to the area, he was elected to the Arlington County Board in 1963 and became an advocate for regional air, water pollution and transit improvement projects. He also served as a Chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

After his service in Congress, he continued his public service at the state level during Virginia Governor CHARLES S. ROBB's administration as Secretary of Human Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder once stated, "Joe proved how well one can serve the people. He did it every day."

Congressman Fisher dedicated his life to public service and was a committed advocate of the causes in which he believed. It is fitting to recognize his service and commitment by renaming the post office located at 3118 Washington Boulevard, Arlington County, Virginia.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor such a man as Joseph Fisher. He has ably served his country and community. I know my colleagues join me in honoring Joseph for his many years of service to his nation and the people of Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. McHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3701.

The question was taken.

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 431) expressing support for humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Mozambique, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 431

Whereas in February 2000, the southern Africa nations of Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe began to experience severe flooding caused by days of heavy rain;

Whereas the Republic of Mozambique bore the brunt of the torrential rains and experienced the worst flooding in 100 years;

Whereas roads, homes, bridges, the energy infrastructure, and crops were destroyed;

Whereas many towns are without potable water and the corresponding public health threat from water-borne diseases is severe;

Whereas on February 22, 2000, tropical cyclone Eline blew full force into Mozambique, exacerbating an already terrible humanitarian crisis;

Whereas continued rainfall from swollen rivers in neighboring southern African countries threatens to bring more flood waters into Mozambique;

Whereas thousands of Mozambicans have lost everything and are in desperate need of water, food, and shelter;

Whereas in 1992 Mozambique ended a bloody 16 year civil war and has made substantial progress on democratic freedoms and multi-party elections;

Whereas Mozambique is one of the world's poorest countries where 27 percent of all babies born die before the age of 5;

Whereas the flooding has virtually wiped out the significant economic recovery the Mozambican people have worked hard to achieve over the last 8 years;

Whereas large segments of Mozambican crops were spared from the cyclone and flooding and could be utilized to feed needy citizens later this year;

Whereas the Government of Mozambique will require massive international assistance over the next 90 days and the growing international relief effort must remain on high alert for the next several weeks;

Whereas prior to the flood disaster, Mozambique was one of the first countries to qualify for benefits under the World Bank/IMF Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative; and

Whereas the total amount of Mozambique's external debt is \$5.3 billion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Government of the Republic of South Africa for its quick response and assistance to the Mozambican people;

(2) commends the Government of the United Kingdom for announcing debt cancellation for Mozambique so that precious financial resources may be dedicated to the national relief and recovery effort;

(3) commends the Administration for its growing involvement and leadership in co-

ordinating America's disaster assistance package to the Republic of Mozambique;

(4) supports the efforts of the United States Government to assist in coordinating international efforts to help the Republic of Mozambique salvage what remains of this year's food crops and to provide seeds for rural agricultural growers;

(5) encourages the international community to continue to provide emergency relief, airlift capacity, and other disaster assistance to the Republic of Mozambique for the next 90 days;

(6) urges the international community to take all necessary steps to locate and demarcate areas that may now harbor semi-boyant plastic land mines transported to new locations by the flooding in Mozambique;

(7) requests that the international community develop a coordinated response to the Government of Mozambique's request for recovery and reconstruction assistance for buildings and transportation infrastructure;

(8) encourages the international community to assist the nations of southern Africa to increase their capacity to respond to national emergencies and natural disasters; and

(9) urges the International Monetary Fund and other international creditors to fully accelerate debt reduction efforts with respect to Mozambique's external debt in the aftermath of the severe flooding.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Resolution 431.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the waters of southern Africa's worst flooding in a century are slowly beginning to recede, but the flood waters have left behind an altered landscape. Where there were homes, there are now ruins. Where there were schools, there is now only rubble. Throughout Mozambique, where there were signs of steady economic progress, once again there is a spectre of hunger and disease.

We still do not know how many people have perished in Mozambique. We believe that 40,000 cattle have drowned. A third of their onion crop has been destroyed. We know that Mozambique and other nations in the region need serious help. When a disaster this scope afflicts a wealthy nation like our own Nation, it is an enormous challenge. But when it happens to a country where the average annual per capita income is less than what we might pay for a dinner for two in one of our favorite restaurants, it is tragic.

Our Nation and other nations are already helping, but their work has only just begun. I fully support this resolution introduced by our good friend and colleague the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) because it reiterates this Congressional commitment to help our brothers in southern Africa in a time of need.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for his support on this piece of legislation, this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 3 weeks, the world has watched with great anguish as the people of the Republic of Mozambique clung to whatever they could to escape raging flood waters. The storms that ravaged Mozambique are the worst the southern African region has seen in more than 100 years. The nations of Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa have also experienced national emergencies from the rainy flooding season.

However, Mozambique bore the brunt of the storms and is still threatened by flood waters from neighboring countries who are forced to open their dams to ease the pressure of these structures.

In the southern third of Mozambique, virtually all the primary roads, bridges, electric grid facilities, and clean water wells have been destroyed. Many buildings and homes that were built along the fertile flood planes of the Save and Limpopo Rivers will need to be relocated or rebuilt.

Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that a nation that has experienced much success over the past 8 years to reform its Government and economy has suffered the economic disaster caused by the floods.

Mozambique recently held its second multi-party elections in 1999 and has privatized over 800 former government-owned enterprises.

□ 1500

For the first time in as long as anyone can remember, Mozambique did not request international food aid. Additionally, because the Mozambique government's track record and economic performance was so strong, the nation qualified for the World Bank and IMF Highly Indebted Poor Countries program.

With the flood waters comes the threat of waterborne diseases and other public health problems. Another problem comes from land mines. Mozambique has thousands of semi-buoyant plastic land mines that may have been uncovered by the rising waters. These new areas must be located and demar-

cated to avoid the unnecessary damage they can do to the population.

In the midst of destruction and great human tragedy, we witnessed the miracle of life above the flood water as a mother gave birth to a child while clinging to a tree.

Additionally, a vast quantity of the country's crops was spared from the flood waters. If the international community can get seeds and tools to the right areas, Mozambique's 2000 harvest yield should be available to help the emergency food shortages.

The Clinton administration has announced its intention to draw down \$37.6 million of DOD funds to assist the Mozambicans. The administration's package also includes the relocation of military assets, small boats and helicopters, to the region to assist.

The Clinton administration has also announced today that it will cancel Mozambique's bilateral debt. We must be prepared to do all we can to assist Mozambique and to help it get back on track so that her hard-fought economic and political reforms are not washed away with the flood waters.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Africa.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state my support for this resolution put forward by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), a member of the Subcommittee on Africa. This resolution is a strong statement of support for humanitarian aid efforts in Mozambique; and as we have seen in news reports, Mozambique has borne the brunt of the destructive torrential rains and tropical cyclones. Unbelievably, Mozambique has been hit with over 500 percent of its average annual rainfall over the course of a couple of weeks.

Flooding has also hit South Africa and Zambia and Zimbabwe, Mozambique's neighbors and partners in the Southern Africa Development Community.

This resolution commends South Africa, for one, for helping Mozambique. Special recognition should be given to the tireless efforts of the South African helicopter teams who saved an estimated 14,000 stranded Mozambicans from their homes, from the roof tops of their now-destroyed homes.

These were heroic efforts which saved innumerable lives, and some quarter of a million Mozambicans are now living in relief camps. Food, tents, medicine, and blankets are desperately needed. I applaud the U.S. military units now involved in rescue and relief efforts in Mozambique. American military forces

are the best in the world. They bring unparalleled skills to this multi-national operation, skills that have been demonstrated in humanitarian operations in the Balkans and Bangladesh and in Latin America.

I would like to say a few words about Mozambique's recent history. The example of Mozambique is a strong counter to those who see nothing in Africa but war, famine, and disease. Mozambique has put an era of authoritarian one-party rule behind it and successfully resolved the bloody, bitter civil conflict that once tore apart the country's social fabric. It is moving toward a market-based economy, one that has registered several years of impressive growth, growth in the 8 percent range.

This natural disaster is a setback on this progress. Today, we can only do our best to see that Mozambique's move toward a more prosperous future is not derailed. As we speak, humanitarian relief efforts are being made by the U.S. and by Germany and by Britain, Canada and many other countries.

It is my hope that out of this disaster some good may come. Some African governments, faced with limited resources, are being asked some tough questions by their citizens. A newspaper in Namibia has noted, no single Namibian would question the need to send assistance to Mozambique, whereas they can quite legitimately question the need for military assistance to Congo, which is torn by war.

A Zimbabwean paper focusing on the flooding in Zimbabwe wrote, "The government was unable to respond properly to the plight of the victims in the flooding in the south of the country because the majority of our helicopters were in the Congo."

I hope that African citizens will increasingly question their government's presence in the war in the Congo; and if pressure is put on to end this destructive war, if Africans decide that they want to help others in need, not fight unwinnable wars, then something positive will come out of this disaster.

Today, the people of Mozambique need help. Mozambique has shown that it knows the road to a better life. It deserves America's help in overcoming this natural disaster, and this resolution expresses support for U.S. relief efforts in Mozambique, and I ask my colleagues to support it. I thank the chairman of the full committee, and I also want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) for introducing this legislation.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the State of Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), and a member of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from New

York (Mr. MEEKS) and the rest of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, we appreciate them bringing this amendment forward to our committee.

The resolution is most desperately needed. I want to report that last week in appropriations, we have a commitment from our chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), as well as the chairman from the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN), to see that Mozambique gets the assistance that they need. We offered an amendment that would replenish the accounts, the \$37 million that has been taken from the military and DOD, as well as replenishing the child survival accounts, as well as international assistance.

Mozambique, after 16 years of war, is now one of the fastest growing countries on the continent. It is our responsibility, as a partner in the world, that we address this most desperate need that they have today.

Nineteen million people; 1 million homeless; 2 million land mines have been identified. The cyclone has now moved those mines, and we must go in there and assist them, as they grow and help themselves.

So I would say to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the rest of my colleagues, this is one of the most important resolutions we will see in this Congress.

I commend the Committee on International Relations, as well as our Members on the Committee on Appropriations, for adopting an amendment to see that Mozambique gets the financial assistance they deserve.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to commend my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), for introducing this very worthy resolution honoring the United States civilian and military personnel serving bravely to rescue victims of the flooding in Mozambique, and expressing our support for humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Mozambique.

The survivors of this massive natural disaster face the challenges of fighting disease, reclaiming their lives, and rebuilding their homes. As neighbors in this rapidly shrinking world, we must do what we can to assist with these efforts.

I want to raise a point, however, in my statement, a point that I think needs to be raised because flooding is a predictable disaster and much of this

tragedy could have been averted by the pre-deployment of trained resources.

Mr. Speaker, the recent flooding that has left millions homeless in Mozambique underscores the point that sadly there is a broad ignorance of effective flood disaster management. Flooding is the leading cause of weather-related death worldwide, and the situation in Mozambique is not unique.

Much criticism has been leveled at the delayed response of United States resources to the area. Without rehashing the stories found in the newspapers, I want to point out that when civilian rescue teams were sent from the Miami-Dade Urban Search and Rescue Team, nobody on that team had been trained for swift-water rescue. Though the most dangerous part of this flood disaster has passed and the waters are receding, the weather patterns over Mozambique continue to change and just a little rain is sufficient to make the standing and receding water dangerous, not only dangerous but rapidly moving water.

Very specific training is required for rescue personnel to work in this environment without putting themselves in danger, and very few rescue teams have even one person adequately trained for this type of situation.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that much more needs to be done about how we plan for, respond to, and educate people about floods. Recently, work has begun to raise awareness of this issue on the national level. Last month, as the flood waters were rising in Mozambique, I testified along with the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY), before the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management, of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, about the need to develop a coherent national flood response plan.

A constituent of mine, Chief Steve Miller of the Cabin John Fire Department, worked with Lieutenant Marshall Parks of the San Diego Lifeguard Service to propose such a plan to coordinate local, regional, and Federal flood response efforts.

Without much effort or expense, many urban search and rescue teams nationwide can incorporate flood and swift-water rescue components as has already been done in California. Perhaps next time such a team is dispatched regionally, nationally, or internationally, they will be better trained and better equipped to move more effectively and serve the victims of disaster.

I wish to reiterate the pride I feel for the humanitarian service being provided by American personnel in Mozambique, and indeed the need is there. Stemming waterborne diseases such as cholera and malaria, while providing clean water and seeding reclaimed farmland, are important first steps to recovery of that nation. Let us hope

that we will learn from this experience and better prepare ourselves for flood disaster at home.

With such resources coordinated nationally, we can better assist flood victims around the world.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in urging the administration's continued effort during this incredible humanitarian disaster. Some 650,000 people have been left homeless. Hundreds, I think some 300 schools and clinics, have been destroyed, washed away; children left orphaned; a country that was just coming to pull itself together after many difficult years finds itself under a natural assault that has really dislocated and devastated people's lives.

I join my colleagues, and I know the American citizens, who have responded with such strong support for our help in this particular instance.

□ 1515

It is clear that all of us in Congress and society have such a great opportunity because of our own success as a Nation to be helpful and to join with other nations in providing some assistance in this very terrible situation.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), a Member who has long been working in the valiant effort with reference to Africa.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 431, a resolution to support humanitarian aid for Mozambique. I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for allowing this to come to the full committee, and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) for also supporting this resolution.

I would like to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, for his outstanding work on the Subcommittee on Africa, where he has taken many initiatives. I would like to give special congratulations to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), a new member on the committee, who has taken his responsibilities extremely seriously and has been a tremendous asset to the Subcommittee on Africa with his energy and his knowledge and his compassion for the work of the subcommittee. So it is a pleasure for me to work alongside the gentleman and other members of the Subcommittee on Africa, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Mr. Speaker, let me say that this is a very timely resolution. As you know,

the Republic of Mozambique has been experiencing severe floods which began early last month, the worst in over 40 years. Massive flooding not only devastated the lands of Mozambique, but it also hit South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Madagascar. What began as a heavy rain soon turned into Cyclone Eline and brought disastrous floods to the south and central parts of the country.

Secondly, there was a second cyclone that came unexpectedly, and then a third. So the initial slow response was exacerbated by the fact that the second and third cyclone came to bring devastating rains to that region.

Grim images flashed over CNN and showed Mozambicans stranded on tops of trees and utility poles. Sophia Pedro, a young mother, gave birth to a baby, a little girl, in a treetop, where she sought refuge for 4 days earlier. The torrential rains took a heavy toll on the population, with several hundred dead and over 1 million refugees.

This natural disaster, the worst in Southern Africa's recorded history, has interrupted the economic, political, and social miracle of Mozambique which it has created for itself during the past decade. Few people know that before this disaster, Mozambique had the fastest and most sustained economic growth of any country in the world.

This resolution recognizes these things that I have mentioned, and further calls for the U.S. to take the lead in the international community to coordinate relief efforts; it commends South Africa for its swift response; it commends the British government for cancelling its bilateral debt; and, finally, it encourages the multilateral institutions to constructively deal with debt reduction.

Mozambique has complied with the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, HIPC. Last year, Mozambique completed the requirements to receive \$3.7 billion in debt reduction from external creditors, the largest reduction under the HIPC initiative.

In conclusion, let me say Mozambique is an impoverished country of 19 million, and debt relief means flood relief. Land mines have been exposed and must be dealt with. Mozambique, as we all know, was one of the last colonies in Africa. It wasn't until 1974 when Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde and Angola became independent, the final release of countries other than South Africa under a colonial-type regime.

But after independence, after the colonial powers were thrown off them, the Cold War took its toll by rearing its ugly head and wreaked havoc on that country, with Renamo forces being supported by the West and Frelimo forces being supported by the opposition parties. Therefore, it created the civil war that continued on

because of the U.S. and the Soviet Union. It had nothing to do with the people of Mozambique, but pawns again of the major powers in the world. So we feel that they are still recovering from this 16-year civil war between Renamo and Frelimo which ended in 1992.

I had the opportunity to talk to President Chissano just one month ago where the miracle of Mozambique was discussed. He was just reelected in January of this year.

So we are asking for more assistance for this catastrophic situation. Although relief was slow initially, I am pleased, however, that USAID finally supplied some \$12.8 million for airlifts, and the Department of Defense allotted \$37.6 million for an emergency assistance package to include a 30-day deployment of resources.

Conversely, the response to natural disasters in Turkey was met with an overnight swift and quick and decisive action. This disaster alone costs the country hundreds of millions of dollars to rebuild. It will cost them many, many person hours. Ambassador Marcos of Mozambique has estimated that for flood supplies alone and medicine, the costs will exceed \$65 million that they need immediately.

So we are simply here to once again say that we all support the aid going to Mozambique, and we hope that the world will continue to support them.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Committee on International Relations under the leadership of the gentleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), and also the Subcommittee on Africa, under the leadership of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), for his very timely presentation of this resolution, which commends the United States Government for its ultimate response to a very real and ongoing crisis.

I also want to join in commending South Africa for its swift action and the serious effort that it put forth, and the United Kingdom for initiating debt relief. Ultimately debt relief, for not only Mozambique, but for many of the nations of Africa, is going to provide serious help to the ultimate development of those countries, and I am pleased to see that it has taken shape.

I also want to take this opportunity to commend the people in my city, the City of Chicago, where we have initiated our own private response. I want to commend the Chicago Public School System under the leadership of Paul Vallas and Gary Chico, whose children have pledged to raise between \$75,000

and \$100,000 through their Kids Helping Kids program that will go to Mozambique. Also I want to commend Alderman Ed Smith, chairman of the Health Committee. We are seeking to find medical resources that are not going to be used by our city that will conversely be used to give to the people of Mozambique.

So I join all of those who are in support of this resolution, congratulate again the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and all of those who have made it happen.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reiterate our thanks to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and his colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) who chairs the Committee on International Relations, for having this resolution before this Congress today.

It is critically important that our country, a superpower, have a super heart when it comes to humanitarian disaster, such as what we see in Mozambique. I wanted to commend the administration and our country, and in particular all American citizens, for what we have done, and challenge us to do even more.

We need to provide all of the relief possible in terms of this crisis, and we also need to recognize and commend South Africa for its initial response. Hopefully, as we look down this road, perhaps there are joint arrangements that we could make, perhaps with South Africa, to help develop their capacity there to respond to humanitarian disasters on the continent, because they are obviously much more capable and able to develop the political will to act in a swift way, as exhibited by their actions here in Mozambique.

But I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) for the introduction of this resolution, and thank him for his efforts, along with that of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and in particular the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for the attention they have brought to this issue, to make sure that our Nation does all it should do, given our role in this world.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), a strong advocate for the continent of Africa and the country of Mozambique.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 3 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), for his leadership in sponsoring this resolution. I would like to also thank

the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and other members of the Committee on International Relations for their quick response.

I rise in favor of H. Res. 431. This resolution supports the efforts of the United States to provide disaster assistance to Mozambique in the aftermath of two consecutive cyclones resulting in torrential rains and severe flooding. The resolution also encourages the international community to continue to provide emergency relief, and urges the International Monetary Fund and other international creditors to fully accelerate debt reduction efforts for Mozambique. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution.

Upon learning of the severe flooding, I immediately contacted Assistant Secretary Susan Rice for Africa, and I immediately sent a letter to President Clinton encouraging swift and substantial relief for Mozambique and the other surrounding countries. I wanted to make sure we did not make the mistake of waiting too long. I did not want the kind of delay we had experienced with Rwanda, a different kind of disaster, but indeed a disaster that could have been mitigated had we moved faster.

Mozambique is experiencing its worse flooding in 50 years. Flooding along the Limpopo River is particularly severe. Several other countries in Southern Africa are also affected by these floods. The extent of the death and destruction is still unknown. However, the floods clearly have a devastating impact on the people of the region. There are now 250,000 homeless people living in camps in Mozambique alone. Those displaced people are in desperate need of food, clean water, medicine, blankets and tents.

Relief efforts are continuing, but they have been hampered somewhat by the destruction of the country's infrastructure. Many roads and bridges have been completely washed out, and others are still under water. All relief delivered to date has had to be airlifted, which is slow and expensive.

Disaster assistance is essential, but it is not enough to adequately address the critical needs of the people of Mozambique or other countries of Southern Africa affected by the floods. We must also enable the governments of the affected countries to begin to repair and reconstruct their damaged infrastructure. These countries need funding and technical assistance for the repair and reconstruction of roads, bridges, schools and hospitals, energy facilities, telecommunications, and other essential infrastructure.

For these reasons, I will introduce the Limpopo River Debt Relief and Reconstruction Act to provide assistance to Mozambique and other Southern African countries affected by flooding to enable them to provide for the needs of

their people, repair their damaged infrastructure, and rebuild their economies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 431.

□ 1530

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of our proponents of the measure and urge our colleagues to fully support this severely needed measure to help the country of Mozambique.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 431, a resolution expressing support for humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Mozambique. I am proud to join my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and other Members in expressing concern for the people of Mozambique and commending those who are providing assistance to Mozambique during this difficult time. I also want to thank my African and Caribbean Task Force in the 9th Congressional District of Illinois for underscoring for me the importance of this aid and the United States' support for other international development and debt relief initiatives.

On February 9 of this year, several Southern African nations including Mozambique, Botswana, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe began to experience serious flooding as a result of heavy rainfall. Mozambique experienced the most severe consequences. On February 22, Tropical Cyclone Eline blew into Mozambique. The cyclone worsened an already critical situation.

Mozambique is now facing a severe humanitarian and economic crisis. Water supplies are in jeopardy, thousands of Mozambicans are homeless, crops and livestock have been destroyed and the threat of disease has been increased.

It is important that the United States and the international community take an active and committed role in Mozambique's recovery efforts and those of other Southern African nations. Mozambique is one of the world's most heavily indebted poor countries according to the World Bank and therefore does not possess adequate means by which to address this crisis.

I join my colleagues in commending South Africa and the United Kingdom for acting quickly to assist Mozambique. The Administration should also be commended for its increasing efforts to provide disaster assistance to Mozambique. I hope the message of this resolution will encourage the continuing efforts of the Administration and increasing involvement of the international community in providing emergency relief to Mozambique.

This tragic disaster serves as a reminder of the importance of debt relief and development assistance efforts that focus on sub-Saharan Africa. We need to help those nations to bolster their capacity to respond to natural disasters and the needs of their people in general. My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Southern Africa. I am determined to help maintain a long-term commitment to the welfare of those nations. I urge all Members to vote in support of H. Res. 431.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 431.

As Americans, we are a major partner in the global community. It is our right and responsibility to assist members of the community suffering great misfortune. The United States' response to the crisis in Mozambique must reflect those values.

It is in this spirit that I strongly support the resolution, which urges increased U.S. and international humanitarian, disaster, and economic relief for the Republic of Mozambique.

The rains, cyclone and subsequent flooding in Mozambique have devastated communities and infrastructure that had just begun to rebuild after a 16-year civil war.

In supporting this resolution, I commend U.S. humanitarian and disaster relief organizations, on the front lines, who've been working tirelessly to save lives. Two organizations based in my district of Baltimore, MD—Lutheran World Relief and Catholic Relief Services—are providing emergency food, shelter, and technical assistance to those in need. We must continue to support those efforts.

Again, I support H. Res. 431 and urge President Clinton to continue our involvement and leadership in this effort.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 431, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 8, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker of the House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on February 16, 2000 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

With kind regards, I am  
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,  
Chairman.

Enclosures.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2616—UPPER TURKEY  
CREEK BASIN, KANSAS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Turkey Creek Basin, Kansas and Missouri, dated